for Trichur was not checked in saying that, they were as irrelevent as they were out of taste and unfair.

Deputy President.—I said the same thing to him.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I still stick to it. I created an occasion to attack the Government. I know there are marshy lands in Ernakulam before you know. That is what is reported. You cannot say that now.

Deputy President.—What is the use of quarrelling?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am not quarrelling. I simply want to raise the level of the foreshore in front of the backwater. I may say for the information of this House as well as the Hon'ble Member for Trichur, that this has nothing whatever to do with the college extension scheme as recommended by the Committee.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Cleverness.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—It is not a question of cleverness, but a question of fairness. Attacking somebody or something, to say that there is no space in Ernakulam, simply shows the desperate nature of the case which the Hon'ble Member for Trichur is pushing through.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

12. Standing Committees.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—My resolution reads thus:—'This Council recommends that Standing Committees of this Council be appointed to be associated with the administration of major spending departments of the State, such as Public Works, Education, Medical and Sanitation, Agriculture and Panchayats, etc.' So far as our Legislative Council rules are concerned, under rule 50 this Council has no power to suggest any definite item of expenditure in the preparation of the budget. Rule 50 says,—'No motion for appropriation shall be made except on the recommendation of Government. Motions may be moved at this stage to omit or reduce any grant or any item in a grant, but not to increase or alter the destination of a grant.' The Council has no power either to suggest any item of expenditure or transfer it to any other item. What this Council can do is either reduce any item or omit it. And even that power has been crushed to pieces by the considerable numbers of transfers effected without the kuowledge of this Council. I have been always thinking why there should be any omission or reduction in the Cochin Budget at all. The Government could freely move for such items which will be readily approved by the Council and when the budget is passed, the Government can freely transfer money to items which the Council may not approve. That is a very nice way of preparing the budget. In practice, Sir, this Council has entirely lost its control over the items of expenditure by these transfers. There is a resolution coming that transfers should not be made in future. This Council has also no power to see how the money

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

voted by it, is actually spent. It is for that that there is another resolution for the appointment of a Public Accounts Committee. With regard to those two resolutions, I shall speak later on. This committee as I now propose in this resolution, is only to enable this Council to suggest which are the main items of expenditure which the country wants. For instance, the main spending Department is the Department of Public Works and so far as this Council is concerned, the Council has absolutely no voice to suggest the items of expenditure in that Department. In the Sister State of Mysore there are Standing Committees to be associated with all the major Departments. A committee was appointed to enquire and report in what direction, enlarged powers should be given to the Assembly and the Legislature and the Mysore Government passed orders with slight modifications on the report of that Committee. I am sure this Government will follow the example of the model State of Mysore. The Committee's report is reported in the Mysore Representative Assembly manual. The committee recommends—"Government have for a long time past recognised the desirability of associating representatives of the people with officials, in the consideration of important measures, and committees consisting of officials and non-officials have been constituted to deal with a great variety of subjects. The present Budget Finance Committee consisting of officials and non-officials was constituted in pursuance of this policy. The Government considered however that permanent committees constituted on a popular basis and possessing defined powers and functions, would be more useful and, accordingly, in the announcement made by the Diwan last year, it was stated that in order to enlarge the opportunities of non-official representatives of the people to influence the every day administration of the State, one or more Standing Committees consisting of members of the Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly, would be appointed in all advisory capacity on the model of the Standing Committees of the Indian Legislature; that the members would be selected from a panel to be elected by the members of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council respectively, from among themselves; that meetings of the Standing Committees would be held under the chairmanship of a Member of Government and summoned at such times and as frequently as may be decided by the Diwan, and that all major questions of general policy on which the Member in charge of the Department concerned desired the advice of the Committee would be placed before it.

"The Committee have submitted the following recommendations in order to give effect to this announcement:

(a) that Standing Committees should be constituted to advise on the following departments or groups of Departments;—

(1) Medical, Sanitation and Public health,
(2) Education,
(3) Local Self-Government and
(4) Railways, Industries and Commerce

(b) That Government may at their discretion appoint additional Committees for other Departments or add other Deparments to the above committees."

The Mysore Government accepted these recommendation

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

with slight modifications. So far as our Council is concerned, the rules are copied from Travancore where there are no Standing Committees. There is no reason why we should not have Standing Committees here. So far as the Provincial Government and the Central Government of British India are concerned, they have got Standing Comittees for all these purposes. I am sure this House will accept this resolution when the attempt is throughout the world to associate people in the administration in greater degree and when we are on the era of the birth of a new State.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I beg to second the proposition. I invite the attention of the House to the very modest wording of the resolution.—This Council recommends that Standing Committees of this Council be appointed to be associated with the administration of major spending departments of the State etc.' It is in no way intended to curtail the liberties or to put any check on the powers of Government officers. It is only a matter of the extension of the principle which has been enunciated in inaugurating this Council, namely, to associate the people more and more with the administration of the country. But whether such an association will be of some use or not, I do not think the House will have two opinions. For one instance, I may say that during the last budget discussion, the House will remember from the perusal of the budget presented by the Government, that two items of bulk allotment had been made in the budget and voted for by the House, namely a sum of Rs. 20,000 under Panchayat Department and another sum of Rs. 50,000 under the Public Works Department. I am not revealing any secret when I say these two allotments were included in the budget at the instance of the Members of the Standing Finance Committee, and I do not think that the Government or anybody else has suffered in any way by incorporating those two items which, as I said before, was made at the instance of the Members of the Standing Finance Committee. Similar improvements resulting from associations in every department generally, would certainly facilitate the work and bring about a more consolidated and approved method of determining the expenditure in the most important heads of the administration. Therefore, I do not think that the Government can have any reasonable objection, except perhaps the daily attendance fee of the members of the committees, if they are so appointed. I do not think there can be any objection whatever on reasonable grounds for associating a certain limited number of people in the administration of each department. With these words, I support the resolution.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. I. N. Menon.—From the resolution it is not quite clear to me whether the Committee is to be purely advisory or whether it is to be an Executive Committee.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—We would begin first with Advisory Committees and not with Executive Committees.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That is the beginning of the thin end.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, The Hon'ble mover of the resolution and the seconder were perfectly right in saying that the Members of this House should be associated with expenditure. But I fail to see how this Standing Finance Committee is not sufficient to scrutinise the estimates before they are passed. I am not, Sir, saying that we do anything behind the back of the Committee in the moral sense of the word. But, I fear that if these Standing Committees are instituted, it will complicate the machinery of the departments, and a great many financial lapses will have to take place. The Public Works Department will be taken to task for surpluses. Fortunately the Education Department will not have much lapses; still there is the possibility of having lapses, if the procedure has to be gone through with the advice and assistance of this Advisory Committee. There is this difficulty. I do not know, Sir, how exactly the Member has conceived the necessity for such committees for such scrutiny or control. I wish to be enlightened on the point, namely, what exactly is the necessity for this Committee over and above the Standing Finance Commitee. I am not clear.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—You refer to Appendix VIII. "The functions of the Committee shall be (1) to examine the draft annual budget so far as the same is within the cognisance of the Council, (2) to examine all applications for Supplementary Grants under votable items of expenditure and (3) to examine such matters as may be referred to it by the Government. The Committee shall be purely an advisory body." These people are asked to suggest whether the expenditure is too much and they cannot suggest any new items. Of course, by the courtesy of the Diwan they made a proposal here. Under the rules, the Government is not bound to examine all applications for Supplementary Grants under votable items of expenditure. It can only examine such matters as may be referred to it. They have no administrative function and they cannot suggest anything

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They have no administrative function. They cannot suggest.

Deputy President.—What are the powers of the committee to be appointed?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I have suggested what are the powers given in the Mysore Assembly. I have read that for my purpose.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Do you know what you want?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I have made it clear. People should be associated with the administration. They must be made to say what works are necessary, and what works are not necessary. It is for that.

Deputy President.—At the time of the Budget Session they do it.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—There must be some statutory power vested in a body recognised by the Council.

Deputy President.—That is to say, they are to be more than advisory?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—There is no difficulty as regards the possible powers of the Committee. For the preparation of the budget that Committee has a voice in the affair.

Deputy President.— For that there is the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—They can only scrutinise the budget as it is.

Deputy President.—The Standing Finance Committee has greater powers.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I wish to say something. Suppose there is a committee just to advise the various departments on the expenditure which is to be incurred in the ensuing year. They can advise the Government as regards what exactly has to be done and what not to be done. In the Engineering Department a road may be undertaken, or a building may be built or this building cannot be built. This will be constructive. Whereas the existing Standing Finance Committee is more or less destructive. This will be constructive and they can give possible advices which they are bound to heed to.

Deputy President.—May or may not.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The Committee should be given powers. The Committee will be appointed by the Government. It is advisory, no doubt. It will be more or less changed. Persistent advices have the effect of being more than advices.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—What is wrong is in the Standing Finance Committee. It seems to me that it is a very curious way of removing the deficiencies of the Standing Finance Committee, to hamper the progress of the different departments. My submission to this House is that, if an Advisory Committee of this type is to be instituted and consulted at every stage in the matter of expenditure, the carrying on of business will be a very difficult thing.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Why difficult?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I will tell you, Sir, why it will be difficult. Requests for transfer of allotments from one head to another will frequently have to be made. Those heads are not very different so far as my department is concerned, say, from "Primary Boys' to "Primary Girls." That is a very minor matter. We are not asking for any additional allotment. Every time the matter is sent to the Government. It is concerned with no additional allotment.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Not so.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I do not know whether the Hon'ble Member is speaking of the Education Department about which I am speaking.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I shall show you.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Sir, I submit to this House that if every item of expenditure has got to be scrutinised in this way, by a laborious process of a kind of non-official preaudit, it becomes very difficult to carry on business without lapses.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I support this resolution. This resolution is nothing more than the intensive association of the people's representatives with the Government of the land. We want to have progress in these matters. We know that to discuss matters of administration generally it is not sufficient to have meetings here. Our meetings are limited. We have got prescribed methods through which we have to go. But, if little Committees of this House are associated with the various spending Departments, they get a better knowledge and a very intensive knowledge of that particular Department. Naturally they will be in a position to enlighten the other Members of this House better, regarding the ins and outs of the particular Departments with which they are associated. That association is pressed for. The fact that it exists in Mysore and in all other British Indian Provinces is a very good argument for this more intensive association that we are also pressing for. In Mysore they have got an Executive Council which we have not got. We have got only Executive Officers. We have not got the Executive Council in the Government of Cochin. In Mysore, the Government of Mysore is different from the services in Mysore. Here the service itself is the Government. The service gets very frightened. 'All my ideas have to be checked. They are coming to be associated with me'—that fright need not enter the minds of our officers at all. (*Hear, hear.*) It will, on the other hand, strengthen them. I am not saying that you have actually got the fright. But that is the apprehension.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—That is with regard to the delay, not with regard to the scrutiny.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. B. Salem.—These meetings, once in a quarter or once in a month, may be devoted to say, 'these are the plans on which I wish to act, to proceed; and what do you say?' If they have got any particular matters to be brought, the officer will get a fund of information which is not a subordinate information. There is difference between an information submitted by a subordinate and an equal or a critic. There is always a difference. Why don't you take advantage of that association of public men with the administration? It does good both ways. It does good to the officer concerned. It does good to the Members concerned, because the Members also become a little more responsible. They get better information, they get correct information in their ideas. The actual facts are exposed by the particular officer concerned and they become a little more responsible in their criticism and more informed. That is the kind of criticism that we will welcome. Uniformed criticism has no value. In the Standing Finance Committee we can suggest many things and we have suggested many things. For instance, I shall say one matter. The matter of asking the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer additional allotment for propaganda work was the non-official suggestion or the suggestion that came from the non-official Members of the Standing Finance Committee. We placed it before the Diwan, the Diwan considered and accepted it. So you have got this. I am sure the official members of the Standing Finance Committee, sitting inside this House would bear out the fact, that the Standing Finance Committee has been functioning well and they have also been benifited and we have also been benefited. Much of the criticism that would be levelled is avoided, because in the Standing Finance Committee we get proper information; we emanate it between our Members here. In that way the association of Members of this House in small groups of particular Departments will mean the diffusion of knowledge and correct knowledge amidst the Members. The Members of the Educational Council may not be the same every year. Some others will take the place, so that you get a number of people who are well versed in matters of administration departmentally, and such association is to be welcomed by the Government. Otherwise how are we going to progress? You are progressing towards responsible Government. Very soon it will not be Government by officers all over India. We are rapidly progressing. If you have not got the knowledge gathered by this association, you have not got a competent body to fill the place when responsible Government comes. This will be a training ground both for the Members of this House and will also be a useful adjunct to every spending Department.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Again there is the other question. You ask our vote here on votable items of expenditure. If we give our vote for the amount, we do not know whether the amount is usefully spent, badly spent, how it is done, etc. We have no chance of knowing it. We have no means of knowing it. We cannot scrutinise the course of expenditure. The course of expenditure is unscrutinised. It will be entirely in the hands of one of the Members. What is the use of asking us to vote if you cannot allow us to scrutinise all votable items? That is essential. That is done everywhere else, in large spending Departments. In Mysore where they have got the Executive Councils, the Members welcome the association of non-official Members. They are also the people of the land. They know how things are moving. The principle indicates to the Department concerned and calls upon the Officer to explain or to place the facts before the Members in the light of the criticisms offered by the Members that are associated in their ideas with him. Therefore, this is a proposition which the Government ought to welcome, because that will be training the people in the arts of administration. And more intensive training will be afforded by accepting this proposition. I therefore support this.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I also wish to make a few observations on the subject. But before I do so, I am sure I am expressing our great gratitude to the Director of Public Instruction for the kindness in observing that the Government, especially the Director, will only be too glad to have our association in the matter. But it seems to me his great anxiety was that we would be overburdened with work—additional work—and also the necessary consultation may cause delay. Now, if you accept these arguments, that argument is equally sustainable in the case of Municipal administration and Panchayat administrative, where consultation necessarily involves delay; and no one out of bedlam, would advise any Government that, because such consultation necessitates delay such consultation should be done away with. Then there is a question asked about this transfer, that it is only a matter from a Girls' School to a Boys' School and one Boys' School to another Boys' School

Mr. I. N. Menon.—In many cases that is so. In the majority of cases it is like that.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—This matter is not quite so simple, as the record will show that the monies that have been voted for works in one institution, in one locality, in one Taluk, has been transferred to works in another Taluk. That is to say, the matter is left to the sweet will of the Head of the Department to transfer the item to this side or to that side provided he succeeded in converting the views of the Head of the Administration to this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

point. Now the object of the Legislative Council is that nobody, however eminent he may be, should be allowed to carry things as he likes and the best among us must be prepared to admit that we are liable to commit errors and mistakes and I do not think that any one, any sensible man, will object that a little advice and a little control will do any harm either to the Head of the Department or to the Government or to the public at large. Now, as things stand, the public are being represented by the Members sitting here and however incompetent we may be, since we are undertaking all these for the public their representatives must have a voice. We do not consider this Council as a very fine debating society till Domesday. We expect to get some power and we always expect, that whenever we move in the matter, a united concerted opposition from that side and I am glad to know that, in matters like this, we will also be united and take concerted action to see that you are restrained in your powers. That is the object. We do not come here to enjoy the electrical punka. We come here to see that the Heads of Departments are kept under proper control, and to keep them under proper control is to see that they are made amenable to the views of this Council, and the method suggested is a very efficient method, to see that the Department is amenable to our views. Either that or we must again fall back upon the old idea of the Council. What is the objection in having a little advice? Are you so very clever? Even if you are, why not you know of the other side of cleverness? Why do you object? I may tell you that this is only advisory. If it remains advisory for ever, I don't agree with this resolution; but I expect this is the thin end of the wedge and in course of time you shall have to look, to bend, to the will of the majority. That is all. But we want to give a dose of castor oil. Till you are habituated to that form and you are being controlled, we thought we will just give a sugar coating to this pill by saying that it is an advisory body. That is what is working in my mind. That is not to be advisory. It begins as advisory and in the near future we shall see wether we can get more. This is the object of a Legislative Council, one side trying to retain all the powers they possess and the other side trying to take away all the powers consistent with public interest. That is the position. There is no trying to get over that fact. And it is all meaningless talk about delay, about difficulties, about round about methods. Are you prepared to surrender a little of the power, or are you going to take all the power? Then it is our business, whether we can get by legislative means in this Council or whether we should consider any extraordinary measures, to see that we get our birthright from those who now hold it. When once the constitutional system

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of Government is established this sort of feeling would go. We know what is working in your minds just as you know what is working in our minds. Let the further discussion be on these lines; let it be clearly understood that this plea of delay, plea of unnecessary delay and unnecessary restriction, should not be operative on the Members, but on the other hand they must have this clear view, that the old fight which is going on all over India between those who govern, those who retain the power, and those who do not possess the power is going on here also. If you understand, no Member here will support the Government on the flimsy ground advocated by the Director of Public Instruction that this will cause delay, this will cause unnecessary trouble and involve additional labour to us. We are very glad that you are so very anxious about our additional burden and I am sure, when I am expressing my thanks, I am doing so on behalf of all the non-officials for your anxiety in throwing additional burden upon our shoulders.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—On a point of explanation, Sir. What I have said seems to have been totally misunderstood. One Hon'ble Member said that it is very salutary to have a critic perpetually on the Department's back. I do not deny that. However much I may be in agreement, if you carry your critic on your back the rate of locomotion in official matters is bound to be slow and I repeat that, even with the control of the Department which now exists, delays are inevitable. Now with this additional machinery, I admit, it is bound to be at least ten fold. As things are often urgent, requests for sanction of money are made to the Department, and in many cases, acting even on the spur of the moment, the Department has often to act in anticipation of Government sanction.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran. — How are they managing, Sir?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—You can place a statement after incurring the expenditure.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—All those things remain as they are.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—If they can do it successfully we can try.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is in connection with enunciating the policy in Mysore.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—They have got detailed rules.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You can frame some rules.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is for enunciating the policy.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—And they translate it into action.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. I. N. Menon.— As far as the policy is concerned, estimates are always discussed by this House, and about the control that is sought, I have no objection That is rightly sought. The only objection that the Government have is the delay that is bound to occur if these Committees have to operate.

Mr. A. B. Salem.— If you associate us with the administration of the major spending Departments ?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We may be able to suggest certain items. In that case you won't put up a full building without a kitchen or a Girl's School without a water closet. We will let you know that these things are necessary. It will so happen that the Government will forget and they would go for Supplementary Grants. In that way all the delay would have been minimised had you been in consulation with us.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I don't agree, because in many cases urgent works have got to be executed for which money has to be sanctioned and voted and the Department has to wait on the convenience of this committee and all these things will have to lapse.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is not in the proposition at all.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—I rise to oppose this resolution. In my Department there will be many occasions where I will have to do things without even taking Government sanction. Now the other day there was an epidemic of cholera very near Trichur and I had to do things without taking Government sanction.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You will have to do it again.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—If I have to take the opinion of the committee which is going to be compulsory, it will cause a lot of unnecessary delay in spite of the fact that the Members say that it is not going to cause delay. In the actual working of it there will be more delay than what we think. Now the Member for the Jews was expressing that he was able to get an additional allotment for me. I may say that the Hon'ble Member for Jews was at Mulanthuruthy the other day and I mentioned to him that I intended to request the Government for funds to start propaganda work.

That was what really happened. In this House all our annual budget allotments are discussed. There is a Standing Finance Committee which scrutinises all such demands. All the additional allotments that we ask for are passed by them after scrutiny and I do not know why another body should come except as an advisory one to further scrutinise the expenditure that we have to meet.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I ask the Hon'ble Member

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Sir, whether in England they have not got this Committee for the working of the Hospitals ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—In England most of the hospitals are run by voluntary contribution and it is they that do the thing.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Of all the Heads of Departments it is to be regretted that the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer should oppose this resolution, because he thinks that if an infection of cholera breaks out, say in Ernakulam, we will not be proposing to spend any money if we were associated with him. It is in our constituency, it is for us, it is for nobody else that he spends. Would anybody object to that? How is the delay ? He spends money without the sanction of the Government. Is the Committee so very poor as not to realise their responsibility ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—They can have plenty of emergency powers.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We want to hear the Government side.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—May I ask the mover of this resolution if he could elaborate the implications of this resolution and just let the Government know more definitely about the Standing Advisory Committee and whether these are to be called before the preparation of the budget? The information is to know what exactly is meant by the wording of the resolution. Is the committee only to be called before the preparation of the budget or also to scrutinise expenditure? When and on what all occasions are they to be called?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Throughout the year.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes. But on which occasions exactly and what will be its powers, may be stated.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The calling of the Committee rests with the Government. Whenever you call them they will come. If you want them all the 12 months, for all the 12 months they come.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—For what purpose? Is it to consider the policy or is it to consider expenditure?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Both.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—"Both" means every day the committee will have to sit.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—To give effect to this resolution will be to convert the Legislative Council into an Executive Council. The law does not allow that. The powers of the Legislative Council are limited by the Regulation. If this resolution is given to effect to, the entire non-official block will be divided into so many executive committees.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is our idea.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The provisions of the Legislative Council Regulation do not allow it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You need not carry them out.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—You yourselves said that it is the beginning.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We want the Executive to be under the control of the Legislature, because these Members would be selected and if they cannot do the work we can remove them. We cannot remove you. We can get accustomed to it. We cannot remove you. You are the Head of the Department. You will be permanent there.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The main objection is the resolution is rather vague with regard to the powers of these Committees. In regard to the powers you may adopt the Mysore rules or the rules issued in the Legislative Assembly or in any of the Provincial Councils working in British India. If changes in these rules are necessary to suit local conditions they may also be considered. It is not possible in a resolution to state every detail. The main attempt, to be frank, is to associate the representatives of the people with the administration and they must have a real voice. This is only the beginning and an attempt has to be made to control the Executive so that power may be in the hands of the people. There is no use of hiding it. Another objection was that the whole administration would come into confusion because an emergency may arise. There is a provision in the Council Rules for emergencies. I refer to section 16 clause 9. I am sorry some of the Government Members speak in ignorance of that section. I shall read that section for their information. "Notwithstanding anything in this section Our Government shall have power, in cases of emergency, to authorise such expenditure as may in the opinion of Our Government be necessary in the interest of our Government or for the carrying on of any Department" You can incur that emergent expenditure and place a statemen- before the Council. Rule 52 says, "When any expenditure is incurred by the Government under Section 16(9) of the Cochin Legislative Council Regulation", which I just now read "the Finance Member shall, as soon as may be thereafter, lay on the table of the Council a statement explaining the necessity for the expenditure; but no motion can be made in regard to that action nor shall that statement be discussed." So there is absolutely no difficulty. We have it almost in every budget meeting. Such statements are generally placed.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I wish to add a few words to the discussion especially with particular reference to my Department. It is different from the other Departments in a great measure, because it is highly technical. The Public Works Department has its programme all chalked out when the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

budget is passed in the Council. The only occasion when it has to depart from that schedule will be when it suggests transfers from one work to another. Such transfers are always done with the approval of Government and only in cases where the works scheduled could not possibly be undertaken for diverse causes, such as delay in land acquisition, or petitions for change of alignment of roads, etc. We have then got to transfer certain amounts from works which could not possibly be undertaken to those which are urgent and which were left undone in previous years; and even in the Mysore State I do not think there is such a Committee for Public Works. I should like to be enlightened. You cannot possibly have a working committee, checking and advising the Department on each and every item of work which this Council has asked to do. On these grounds, therefore, I oppose this resolution and state that this Committee will work great hardship on the progress of work in this Department.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Only as regards Public Works? I do not know whether there is a Committee in Mysore.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—There are committees for (1) Medical, Sanitation and Public Health, (2) Education, (3) Local Self-Government and (4) Railways, Industries and Commerce.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Not for Public Works.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The public may feel that a bridge ought to go over a river, but the Department may not feel it.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—No. I made a mistake. "The recommendations of the Committee have been carefully considered by Government and they are pleased to order that for the present three Standing Committees may be formed, one in connection with the Railway, Electrical and Public Works Departments, one in connection with Local Self-Government and the Department of Medicine, Sanitation and Public Health and the third in connection with Finance and Taxation. Government may at their discretion appoint additional Committees for other Departments or add other Departments to the above Committees".

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I move that the question be now put.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I second it.

The resolution was then put to votes and carried.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—A poll, Sir.

The House divided: Ayes 18 and Noes 14.

	Ayes		*Noes.*
1	Mr. V. Achyuta Menon	1	Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.
2	,, I. E. Ambooken	2	,, U. Kandir Menon.
3	,, P. C. Chanchan	3	,, T. K. Krishna Menon.
4	,, A. Eachara Menon	4	,, T. M. Krishna Menon.
5	,, E. Ikkanda Warriar	5	,, T. S. Narayana Ayyar.
6	Dr. A. G. Menon	6	,, I. N. Menon.

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7	Mr.	K. P. Kannan Nayar	7	Mr.	K. Krishna Pisharodi.
8	,,	P. Krishna Menon	8	,,	P. Nilakanta Menon.
9	,,	P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan	9	Mrs.	G. Pavitran.
10	,,	A. K. Kunhu Moideen	10	Dr.	D. Raghavendra Rao.
11	,,	C. A. Kunjunni Raja	11	Mr.	I. Raman Menon.
12	,,	C. V. Kuriyan	12		Rama Varmha Tampuran.
13	,,	C. J. Mathew	13	Mr.	K. Ramunni Menon.
14	,,	K. Mohamed Seethi	14	Dr.	E. A. Veigas.
15	,,	T. K. Nayar.			
16	Dr.	A. R. Menon.			
17	Mr.	A. B. Salem.			
18	,,	Thomas Manjuran.			

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—18 for, 14 against.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No neutrals also. That may also be noted.

13. Land Mortgage Banks.

The following resolution was not moved and so it was considered withdrawn.

Mr. C.J. Mathew.—*This Council recommends to the Government to start a well organised system of Land Mortgage Banks.*

14. New Moon Days.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 14.

Mr. K. J. Antony being absent the following resolution tabled by him was considered withdrawn.

"*This Council recommends to the Government that the New Moon days instead of as now being made half-holidays be made full holidays or no holidays at all in which latter case making the Thulam, Makaram and Karkadagam New Moon days and the New Moon days succeeding Sivarathri complete holidays.*"

15. Thanikkudam Scheme.

Deputy President.—Resolution 15.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Sir, I beg to move, "that in view of the great sufferings and losses caused to kole cultivators by successive drought this Council recommends to the Government to complete investigation with regard to the Thanikkudam scheme of irrigation as early as possible and requests that the work be proceeded within the course of the next financial year to irrigate kole lands."

Sir, this thorny problem has been discussed here off and on and no definite step has been taken by the Government. Even though recommendations have been submitted to give adequate relief to the ryots, none of the recommendations, excepting one, has been taken into effect and I request the Government that at least next year some schemes of irrigation may be taken up to irrigate kole lands. I have more than once stated in this Council that the cultivators are willing to pay whatever charges of irrigation that may be met by the Government. Their only request is that they should be provided with adequate water so that their harvest may be properly reaped. In respect

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